

## Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /082 W

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R 180847Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9479

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

USEC BRUSSELS 0682

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, FI, US

SUBJECT: METALWORKERS' CONGRESS: US PARTICIPATION

REF: HELSINKI 2677

1. SUMMARY: PRESENCE OF TWO RESPECTED US LABOR FIGURES DURING FINNISH METALWORKERS' CONGRESS HIGHLY BENEFICIAL IN PROMOTING FINNISH UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT AND OPENED AVENUES FOR INCREASED EXCHANGES BETWEEN FINNISH AND AMERICAN METALWORKERS. END SUMMARY

2. ATTENDANCE AT QUADRENNIAL CONGRESS OF FINNISH METALWORKERS' UNION DECEMBER 14-17 BY AMERICAN GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS' FEDERATION (IMF) HERMAN REBHAN, AND BY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF MACHINISTS UNION (IAM-AFL-CIO) BEN SHARMAN LITERALLY KEPT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMERICAN FLAG FLYING AMID THOSE OF ABOUT 14 OTHER COUNTRIES

WHOSE REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED CONGRESS. REBHAN AND SHARMAN SPOKE WITH DOZENS OF FINNISH LABOR LEADERS AT CONGRESS AND AT RECEPTION GIVEN BY EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE. THEY ALSO HAD EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH MANY OF THE INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PRESENT, PARTICULARLY THE SCANDINAVIANS AND THE WEST GERMANS.

3. REBHAN ADDRESS TO OPENING SESSION OF CONGRESS CONCERNING ON NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION SOLIDARITY TO DEAL WITH MULTINATIONALS, UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, JOB SAFETY AND HUMANIZATION OF WORKING ENVIRONMENT WAS WELL-RECEIVED. REBHAN ALSO GAVE INTERVIEW TO FINLAND'S LEADING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER WHICH REPORTED THOROUGHLY AND ACCURATELY HIS EXPLANATION OF IMF'S FUNCTIONS AND IN PARTICULAR ON ITS EFFORTS TO PREVENT FIRMS FROM TRANSFERRING PLANTS USING HAZARDOUS METHODS OF PRODUCTION TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

4. SHARMAN LAID GROUNDWORK FOR BROADENING EXCHANGES BETWEEN FINNISH AND AMERICAN METALWORKERS. WHEN NEWLY RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN SULO PENTTILA EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN ATTENDING IAM CONVENTION BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 7, 1976, IN MIAMI, SHARMAN ASSURED HIM INVITATION WOULD BE FORTH-COMING. FINNS WILL PROBABLY FINANCE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL (INCLUDING THAT OF INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KAJ LAXEN) AND IAM WILL PICK UP EXPENSES IN MIAMI. EMBASSY HOPES PENTTILA WILL ACCEPT PARTIAL LEADER GRANT ENABLING HIM TO VISIT ELSEWHERE IN US AT SAME TIME. COMMENT: SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE EXCELLENT WAY TO OVERCOME ANY LINGERING BITTERNESS RESULTING FROM CANCELLATION OF NORDIC METALWORKERS' PLANS FOR US TRIP IN AUTUMN 1974 OCCASIONED BY REFUSAL TO GRANT VISA TO FINNISH COMMUNIST MEMBER OF DELEGATION.

5. SHARMAN EXPLORED WITH JAN HODANN, SECRETARY OF NORDIC METALWORKERS SECRETARIAT, POSSIBILITY OF HAVING AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS IN AUGUST 16-20 IMF CONFERENCE ON SAFETY AND HEALTH VISIT OTHER SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES BEFORE OR AFTER CONFERENCE IN OSLO. SHARMAN ALSO TOLD LABATT THAT DANES HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VISITING US AS SWEDES AND NORWEGIANS HAVE DONE SINCE FUTURE OF JOINT NORDIC METALWORKERS TRIP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNCERTAIN AND THAT HE WOULD BE ARRANGING INVITATION FOR THEM. HOUSTON

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## Message Attributes

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